

At the time of this writing, the above seems to be the status of some NRA rulings, at least as they apply to physicians. The representatives of the American Medical Association are keeping in touch with the administrators of the NRA law and codes, and if new developments arise the profession will be made acquainted therewith.

STUDY OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS— A PLEA FOR COUNTY SOCIETY COÖPERATION

A Suggestion for Meeting Programs.—Before the current issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE reaches its readers, practically all component county societies of the California and Nevada Medical Associations will have resumed their autumn sessions.

This fall it is hoped that the officers and program committees will arrange to have, in addition to the usual scientific papers and discussions, two or more meetings given over to a study of some of the medico-economic problems to which so much space has been given in the official journal during the last several years.

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Certain County Public Health Problems.—In every county of California the care of the indigent sick brings into action certain social, economic and medical factors worthy of the interest and understanding of every member of a county medical society. It cannot be too often repeated that constructive efforts aiming at improvement of methods in the care of the indigent sick (and of elimination from the group of charity patients of citizens who have no right to receive aid from public funds or through the gratuitous services of physicians) necessarily must be based on accurate knowledge of facts and figures. To indulge in verbal criticism of conditions without knowing about the existing institutions of each county for the care of the indigent sick, or understanding their relation to the population and economic resources, as well as to the industrial and social conditions of the community, will not make for much improvement in those places where deficiencies and malfunctions exist. First-hand and accurate knowledge is a primary requisite in any program aiming at reforms.

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Special Studies Have Been Made By Certain County Medical Societies.—In some of the counties of the State the component county societies (notably Alameda, San Diego, Fresno, and San Joaquin) have made fairly comprehensive studies of these problems, presenting in their committee reports important information concerning their respective communities and suggesting or putting into operation plans for betterment, of value not only to themselves, but to all other county societies.

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The State Association Offers Its Services to Component County Societies.—The California Medical Association, acting through its House of

Delegates and Council, in the last several years has spent many thousands of dollars in an effort to aid its component county societies to find a satisfactory solution of some of these problems. However, something more than the expenditure of moneys, and even the active interest of a few members, is necessary. What is needed in order to get the results desired by all physicians is the real interest and active support of practically every member of every county society. To hope for so universal a coöperation is, however, little less than utopian. Nevertheless, if coöperative aid from every member is out of the question, it is not too much to expect it from the officers of every county society. For the officers and committeemen of county societies are the members who, for the time being, are the recipients of the honors of their respective organizations; and as the custodians of the interests of their fellows, and of the entire profession, they fail if they do not sense the importance of the medico-economic problems which today face the medical profession in every part of California.

Presidents, secretaries, and program committees of county societies should feel free to write to the California Medical Association Department of Public Relations for advice and aid in working out practical lines of procedure.* If outside speakers are desired, the Department and the Association Secretary, upon request, will make an effort to supply them.

It is hoped that those county societies which, as yet, have not taken steps to carry on studies of their public hospitals, dispensaries, and health departments, will get into line in this important work. Local studies and investigations nearly always can best be made by the local profession.

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Other states—Michigan, for example—have brought out reports of great informative value. California and Nevada must not be laggard. With the coöperation of all component societies of the California and Nevada Medical Associations it should be possible to gather the facts and information upon which to base intelligent and united action, that can bring about the elimination of certain public health evils, which all physicians know to exist.

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST MEDICAL AUTHOR

Another Historical Contribution by Dr. George D. Lyman.—Many members of the California Medical Association have probably given themselves the pleasure of reading the absorbing historical narrative, "John Marsh, Pioneer," written by Dr. George D. Lyman of San Francisco and published somewhat more than a year ago. That excellent service to California biographical literature has now been emphasized by another contribution from Doctor Lyman in his introduction

* The personnel and addresses of all California Medical Association committees are printed in every issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, advertising pages 2, 4 and 6.